

# BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Dec. 22, 1923

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**O**ur photo seen here was taken on Dec. 22, 1923, in the Citizens National Bank of Albion. This was the grand opening of the newly expanded banking room.

The original banking room, at the same location from 1902, was much smaller. With this expansion in 1923, it more than doubled the space.

The banking room was fitted up with marble flooring and a marble dado around the wall. Decorative plaster mouldings enhanced the ceiling embellished with stenciling. The

teller's cages were of decorative bronze as well as a bronze chandelier.

When our picture was taken the bank was decorated with many floral contributions no doubt from other businesses in town for the grand opening. It was here that banking continued until Jan. 11, 1932, when the bank closed for good due to hard economic times of the depression.

For some time following this, the building was vacant until taken over by Dales Super Market in 1940. At that time renovations occurred to make it

suitable for a grocery store. Once Dales left downtown Albion the building served several uses until falling into decay.

Reclaimed by the village, we know this place today as the Albion Visitors Center. The space we see in the photo has since been subdivided into two floors. There are now offices on the first floor for the Chamber of Commerce and Assemblyman Charles Nesbitt.

Indeed, over time quite a transformation has occurred.